

Serial No.: 09/501,947

1. (Twice Amended) A laser device comprising: an n-doped cladding region and a p-doped cladding region; an optical guiding region disposed between the n-doped cladding region and the p-doped cladding region; and an active region disposed within the optical guiding region;

wherein the laser device further comprises at least one optical confinement region disposed between the active region and at least one of the cladding regions, the at least one optical confinement region having a lower refractive index than the at least one of the cladding regions,

the laser device emits light in the visible region, and

the at least one cladding region is the n-doped cladding region.

Please cancel claim 8 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Reference is made to the attached Appendix which includes the above-identified amendments in annotated form.

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 9-31 remain pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended herein. Claim 8 has been canceled. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

I. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicant again acknowledges with appreciation the allowance of claims 19-23.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1, 2, 4, 8-12, 18 AND 24-31 UNDER 35 USC §103(a)

Claims 1, 2, 4, 8-12, 18 and 24-31 remain rejected under 35 USC §103(a) based on *Hayakawa* in view of *Hiroshima et al.* This rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.